

# TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO† BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

## EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

*California Doctors in Service* [January, 1918].—On another page of this issue of the JOURNAL appear the names of those physicians of California who have been commissioned in the government medical services. The list is incomplete and may contain inaccuracies. Partly to remedy these two faults, it is published. It is requested that each reader will particularly scrutinize it and report at once any omission or inaccuracy noted. The latest figures now available cover only through the early part of November. It is requested that all commissions accepted up to December 31, 1918, be reported at once if not already on this list.

The list is published, however, not solely for the sake of obtaining a corrected roll, but also for the more noble purpose of doing honor to those of our number who have been so fortunate as to receive commissions. Their honor is to some small extent reflected on us who stay behind for the time. We are proud of them and we are proud to belong to their profession. As they have gone and we stay behind, it behooves us to do our bit with a right good will that their sacrifice be not fruitless, that their exertions be not neutralized by lack of enthusiastic and effective support. From time to time, various avenues of home service have received comment in the JOURNAL. . . .

*American Manufacture of Salvarsan.*—The Federal Trade Commission has entered orders for the license of three firms to manufacture and sell salvarsan under the American name of "arsphenamine." The control of standards and quality of product will devolve upon the Federal Public Health Service. . . .

*Periodic Physical Examination.*—It is such an old story. Every doctor knows it. Most patients know it. But the trouble is that he and they are too busy to remember it. Both are prone to let well enough answer. No man can get himself in sufficient perspective to see his own beginning physical and mental infirmities. Few can do it for their moral shortcomings. Even the doctor himself does not always elicit the significant history of a little undue weariness, or slight breathlessness, or hazy vision, or inability to make physical and mental adjustments in reflex fashion. . . .

Every physician should preach and practice periodic medical examination, at least once yearly when in apparent health. It is reasonable, and represents the best development of the physician's art, the prevention of disease in the individual.

*The Conservation of Vitamins.*—With the present concern over food supply, comes the pitfall for both institutions and individuals of a dietary deficient in vitamins. We do not know what vitamins are. [Year, 1918.] The name is doubtless a misnomer. Accessory food substances necessary for growth and maintenance of healthy

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By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.  
Secretary-Treasurer

## News

"An extension of California's sterilization program, to include persons adjudged by courts to be psychopathic delinquents and sexual psychopaths, was recommended yesterday at a conference of heads of 16 State institutions, including Dr. G. Max Webster, director of Patton State Hospital. . . . The extension of the sterilization program would require specific legislation, said Dr. F. O. Butler, acting director of institutions, because the attorney general's office has held that the present sterilization program cannot legally include psychopathic delinquents or sexual psychopaths. 'There may be some public criticism of our action (in recommending extension of sterilization),' Dr. Butler said, 'but we must face it. Psychopathic and mentally-defective delinquents, and sexual psychopaths, should not be turned loose on society in their present state.' . . ." (San Bernardino Sun, Nov. 13, 1942.)

"Several weeks ago, the Napa City council advised the Napa County Medical Association that the \$5-day rate and \$10-night rate for examining drunk drivers was too high, and urged that the rate be reduced. This week, the physicians of the Victory Hospital staff announced to the council that the rates for examining drunk drivers have been set at \$10 for calls from 6 a. m. until midnight, and at \$12.50 for calls after midnight. The new rate is double the old rate for daytime and \$2.50 more for night calls." (Napa Journal, Nov. 20, 1942.)

"Criticism of Dr. S. J. Francis, Santa Ana chiropractor, for stating publicly that the International Chiropractors Association had petitioned Major General Hershey to defer members of this profession, and permit them to serve on the home front, is not justified, Cash Asher, public relations director of the Association, said in Davenport, Iowa, today. Asher said that the Association had requested Hershey to recommend to draft boards the deferment of chiropractors, since there is no provision in the military establishment at this time for their services. He declared that Hershey had recommended to draft boards that osteopaths be deferred, because osteopathy, like chiropractic, is not included in the healing services of the Army or Navy. He added that, obviously, the same regulation should apply to chiropractors as applies to osteopaths. . . ." (Santa Ana Register, Nov. 9, 1942.)

"Justice of the Peace George DeWolf ruled today that defense witnesses in the trial of Grayson M. Martin, 59, of 315 First Street, charged with violating the State health code by selling sea water at \$10 a gallon as a remedy for several major diseases, may testify whether they felt better after taking the preparation. . . . The State rested late yesterday after introducing the testimony of Henry Fliedmer, 622 South Eleventh Street, who went to the district attorney after buying one bottle,

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.